Book 1

First Day

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Chapter 1

Ready for School?

In a suburban neighborhood in New York, there lived a young boy who was about to go to school. His very first day at that school, as a matter of fact! Sadly, it seems like he doesn't feel too thrilled about it.

He was lying on his bed, face flat. His mother walked him, watching her lazy son as he snored like an old man who didn't get a good day. He looked like a sloth to her!

"Wake up, honey!", the mother yelled.

The boy didn't wake up yet.

"Wake up, wake up!", she repeated.

The boy was still asleep. The mother's patience was waning on her.

"I said: WAKE UP!", she shouted. The shout was so loud, it could be heard miles away!

Finally, the boy woke up, though not in a good state. It's more of a 'Oh my gosh, leave me alone!' state rather than a 'I'm ready for school!' state. His hair was ragged up, and his eyes were baggy.

"Mom, do I have to go to school?", the boy asked. What a silly question! The mother had a frightened face, mixed with a dumbfounded expression.

"Oh, Bruno, shush it! You're in a new school, so you have to be the new you!". The mother crossed her arms in a fury as she says that. Bruno jumped in a scare. How could she ever react this way? He

understood what he asked was bizarre, but he thought she'd understand how he felt. She was a kid too, wasn't she? She continued, "Not only that, but your friends are staying with you. Please understand that!". Bruno tried his best to ignore what his mother said and moved on with his stale day.

Bruno apparently had old friends at his friends who crossed into this new one. How is that possible? It's because the current school Bruno is getting into is another branch located in New York.

"Oh… fine then…", Bruno sighed with hesitance. He looked around his messy room and hopped out of his mess-infested bed. It looked like Hollywood lied to Bruno about New York City being a breath-taking and flashy haven. Instead, it's a draining mess of a city to Bruno! Even so, it was too late to make a change in choice.

The boy, walking away from his bed, reached the bathroom downstairs and took a warm shower. A calming one. Perhaps it'd help him escape the fact that it's the first devasting day of school. Brushing his minty teeth, he suddenly heard some intimidating voices sprouted out of nowhere—or from the other side of the bedroom.

"Come on, Bruno! We have to go or else we'll be super late!", a young boy yelled! He and an old, fairly chubby man crashed into the room! They were red and had furious eyes.

"Stop wasting our time, son. We don't have all day.", the man glared. Bruno got shocked in fear. He never saw his family in this state! He was so shocked that he almost dropped his toothbrush. It seems like he ticked his family off, perhaps in the first time in forever!

He jumped and rush outside. "Ok! Ok! I'm getting ready!", he said. He ran with his pajamas. He realized that he needed to get ready in his room and dashed back to his room.

“Son! What did I say about rushing?”, the man said as Bruno enters the room once again. His body was drooping down as he walked inside.

“I’m sorry… it’s just that—"

“We don’t have time!”, the brother yelled.

His family ran outside. Bruno glared into the door, then turned to his window. *“And it’s been 3 days… Why can’t we go back to Brooklyn?”*, Bruno thought on the inside.

He sighed. The closet opened, he takes out his blue shirt with white stripes, very black shorts and red-white cap. He gets his already-packed lunch, his large red backpack and ran outside!

Bruno was almost late for his bus. When he reached it, he started noticing how cramped it is, despite its outer size telling otherwise. He further saw how many people in the bus are ones he can recognize, who are the majority of kids in the bus. Still, there are nobody he was close to in it.

He slowly walked through the bus seats and then sat beside a floral-decorated girl who was just looking at the view. Bruno tried to forget about her and focused on what he was going to do for the first day of school.

He took out his MP3 player and started playing music as he’s taken to school alongside everyone else.

When he was on the bus, he saw a boy passing by him.

He was dressed in what a rich boy would wear: a bling necklace, sunglasses and expensive everything else. Obviously, he would be the rich and spoiled boy of his class.

What's odd is that, he already was according to Bruno.

Indeed, they were once classmates in the Brooklyn branch.

"Nathaniel?", Bruno asked the boy walking by.

Nathaniel's sunglasses slid down so he'd see Bruno's face. "Teh. Bruno? It's been years", Nathaniel said. The girl behind Bruno was pouting and totally red, though. They were apparently classmates since last year.

"Nathaniel!", she yelled as she was shaking. She turned her entire body to the boy and almost pushed Bruno away!

"Ah, the innocent little girl! How pathetic!", Nathaniel taunted. The girl took the taunt and was close to punching him in the guts, but he dodged her fist. She repeated to do so multiple times. Bruno was bearing witness to this, staying concerned for himself once Nathaniel walks away.

"You're persistent, aren't you?", Nathaniel smiled.

"I'll tell Sarah all of this!", the girl yelled with her hair crazy.

Bruno was wondering who was this Sarah girl. Whoever she is, she must be close to this snob!

"Yeah, right. As if she'll believe you", Nathaniel laughed away. He went on to chat with his equally snobby friends.

The girl calmed down, putting herself away from Bruno. Then she looked at Bruno and blushed.

“Oops! Excuse me!”, the girl chuckled.

“It’s… fine”, Bruno said slowly.

He continued to listen to his music.

“Gee, how weird is the school going to be if the bus is already weird? Must be a lot…”, Bruno thought to himself.

He took a glance at the girl and saw her freckles and glasses. He looked back at his MP3 player and started to play his favorite songs.

“Either way, maybe I’ll meet people who I can fit in with. At least, better than the last one… and the Brooklyn branch”, Bruno thought again.

The bus to the education machine continued driving along New York and its many large buildings. However, it was only the bus’s background and instead it passed by many suburbs.

This is where Bruno’s journey truly begins.

Chapter 2

Classroom

At school, every age is divided into a grade, then every grade is divided into classes in between the range of 1-6. The number depends on the number of students in the grade. As for the 8th grade, it is divided into 4 classrooms: Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, and Class 4. Apparently, Bruno is in Class 2.

Unlike other students, Bruno is awful in directions. It just so happens that the signs of the class were mixed up too. All of this is a recipe for disaster for the red-shirted boy!

In one class, on the top of the door, there reads a sign that says "Class 2". Bruno ran into the class, hoping it was his. He even recognized some students, one of them even his closest friends. Strangely, the friend was… different. Universes more different than Bruno remembered him to be.

Once Bruno heard the murmurs of students talking about being in Class 4, he got called out by a fair-suited man.

"Bruno Ray!", the man yelled. Bruno looked at the man's direction as he was walking right into Bruno, almost bumping into him.

"Good morning! Is this Class 2?", Bruno asked politely.

"No. This is Class 4", the man said. He then pointed at some other direction, apparently pointing at where Class 2 actually is in. "Your class is over there. Your teacher told me so".

Bruno grinned, nodded and thanked the man gracefully, not even asking the guy's name! He ran off to the actual class in a sweat.

Meanwhile, in another brightly lit classroom…

"OK… Is everyone present?".

A lady walked across the front classroom, coming out of the classroom door. The students looked at her curiously. The lady seems to be the teacher. Tall, hazel and smooth long hair, blue-eyed and wore white vest. She's a beauty to many, including students. Even the principal agrees! Two of the teachers even developed a crush on her during her first few years of being in the school. She married one of them.

Sitting beside her are her students. 19 of them. All of them spouted out a "Yes!" before Bruno barging in. He opened the door strongly, maybe even close to breaking it!

"I'M HERE!", the young boy shouted. Everyone deeply gazed at the brown-haired boy, from the girls on the left, to the boys on the right and everyone else in between. Bruno was panting. He ran across the classroom like it's an Olympic marathon, or running for the last few minutes of his life.

"Oh, Bruno! Why did you come so late?", the teacher asked, taking a few steps towards the boy. Looking confused, Bruno shrugged while saying "I just didn't know the way to the school", trying to ignore what just happened earlier. There were murmurs coming from the students in the background, none with Bruno listening. All he cared about is arriving on time. He didn't even wonder how the teacher knew his name when they just met.

"Ah, I see, please take a sit then.".

The teacher took a look around the classroom, searching for an available seat while smelling the musty aroma unveiling from her students. She luckily found one. “Over there!”. She pointed happily at the seat. It was beside a fairly quiet boy. He was reading a book while wearing his V-collared vest. Bruno smiled as he’s glad that he didn’t get to sit bedside a noisy kid that he knows nothing of.

He took a walk to the seat. During the walk, his old “friends” swoon over him.

“Eek! It’s Bruno! Again! Eeee!”, one girl swooned.

“Man, I didn’t expect him to come!”, another blushed.

“I don’t want this imbecile again!”, a black-shirted boy quietly ranted.

“Wow, I’m surprised.”, a boy said slowly.

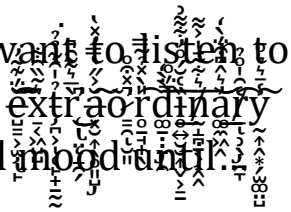
When he reached his seat, a girl with blonde bangs in the front whispered to her friend, “Ugh, this guy is getting a lot of attention.”.

The gorgeous teacher stood in front of her students, with all of them taking their attention to her. She seemed to a painting in a museum to them. “Ok students!”, she said under her breath, “Now that all of us are here, let’s introduce ourselves to each other! Shall we?”. All the students nodded in excitement, oddly not saying yes.

The teacher clapped her hands and made a wide grin. “Alright!”, she yelled out, “As you might know, I’m Mrs. Garcia, your English teacher”. “I’m the wife of Mr. Jeffery, your PE teacher. A lot of you most probably know that I’m the mother of a fellow student, Carly, here! And, well, I’ve been the homeroom teacher of this class since 4th grade!”, she continued. She turned to her daughter, smiling. As she did that, Carly made out a snide smile and turns her head

around the classroom, making herself look like the center of the world. *“I bet they’re all jealous of me.”*, she whispered to herself.

“Speaking of classmates,”, she stated, “I want to listen to all of your introductions! You all seem to be extraordinary children!”. Everyone smiled and seem to be in a good mood until.



“… Starting with my lovely daughter, of course!”

Everyone’s smiles went upside down as they watch this narcissist stand up. She fixed her white-striped tie and kept her pink, glittery skirt and shirt straight. She tossed her hair as she says, “Thank you, mother. I’m Carly, but I know that all of you know me already!”. She laughed as Bruno pouted in the background. He hated people like Carly. The people who think they’re on top of the world. The main character, if you will. Meanwhile, her best friend snickered like a mischievous child. “I’m the best child of this whole country, obviously!”, she announced. Everyone rolled their eyes and many looked away from her.

Mrs. Garcia sweated. She looked upon the ground. “Carly, what did I teach you?”, she whispered to her daughter. Instead of caring, Carly turned her face away, moaning an “ugh” expression. Mrs. Garcia gets back to her straight posture and loudly said, “Well! Young lady, you’re next!”.

“It’s Sarah, for your information!”, the girl yelled.

She was wearing a purple zipped-jacket, blue jeans and gold glowed all over her. It was obvious that she was living the life! She cleared her throat, but that didn’t clear her scratchy, deep voice. It was so deep that she can be mistaken for an old man!

“Finally! I’m Sarah Anderson, Carly’s right-hand girl!”, she shouted. Mrs. Garcia clapped and smiled. “Wonderful!”, she complimented. She then peeked around the class in confusion of which student will

be the next, until she made another decision. “Alright, my students! We’ll go from row to row, OK?”, she asked. The students yelled out “Yes!”.

The next one to be introduced is an odd boy. He wore a black coat with pants and a gray bag always on the back of him. What’s inside the bag is a mystery not even his closest friends know. He happens to wear bandages as well. It’s unknown where did those bandages come from, and for what injury it masks. “Heh-heh-heh”, he slowly laughed, “I’m Craig. Nice to meet you”.

Up next is the boy beside him. He’s known as a slow and fairly dim-witted boy, but well-natured. “I’m Sid. Sid Nick”, he said. That sentence was at a snail’s pace in reality! Some students refer to him as “Sid the Sloth” because of how slow he is.

On the next column comes the quiet boy who Bruno had to sit next to. The boy seemed fair-mannered as far as students go. He stood up in a straight and polite manner, as kept his book inside the closeted table. “Hello, my fellow classmates. I’m Alex Wilson. I happen to the son of a certain someone in this school”. The certain someone clicked on Mrs. Garcia.

“Ah! Isn’t it Duke Wilson?”, she inquired as soon as she got reminded. Alex nodded with joy. “Yes, yes! He is!”. It should be obvious to everyone, as the two had messy and short blonde hair and is fairly short compared to everyone else their ages. Perhaps Alex’s height might even be a factor as to why he doesn’t have any current friends.

Bruno was understandingly confused. Looking around the classroom, he kept on wondering who it really was as he doesn’t know a clue about who Duke Wilson is other than the fact that he’s Alex’s father. His wonder got cut off as soon as the teacher asked him to introduce himself.

“Hello, hello? Mr. Bruno?”, she asked, waving her hand in front of Bruno. He jumped. “Oh, sorry! I was just--“.

He got cut off from the teacher giving him a glare.

He gulped as he stood up and stuttered out, “I’m Bruno! B-Bruno… uhm…”. Bruno’s heart was beating as fast as a speedy car. His anxiety has truly gotten to him. “BRUNO RAY!”, he yelled in fear. Everyone looked at him like he’s a psycho. He swallowed in all the looks and sat down. Bruno couldn’t even process what he just did because of how much fear he felt! It went so fast for him and was so shocking! He was lucky that none of the students even made out a giggle or snicker.

The next one came up. Across the row talked a gothic-looking girl, though she, in reality, is naughtier and bubblier than gothic. “Teehee! I’m Mandy!”, she giggled. Then a boy followed. “And I’m Maverick!”, he said with pride. As the two sat, their giggling and chuckling started to spread across the classroom. Mrs. Garcia didn’t like this, of course! “Shush your chattering up!”, she yelled! They followed as their talking stopped.

Then, a seemingly adorable girl talked. It was the same one who talked about Bruno. “Oh! I’m Nadia. I’m from the other branch, if you don’t know!”, she said. Her overalls got a bit messed up as she was saying that. She pulled it up from falling.

“I’m Bella! Want my number?”, she asked. It was silent, however. Mrs. Garcia had a slight grin, however. “I don’t think anyone’s asking for your number, Bella!”, she chuckled. Bella was chuckling along.

Suddenly, a boy yelled out, “BEEP! BEEP! I’M MAX!”. It was loud! Everyone was covering their ears just to not hear those annoying beeps! “Max, please calm your… beeping… down”, she said with awe and disturbance.

“Hey! Hey! I’m Renard! Did you know that I can transform into anything?”, he said. Everyone stared, then laughed. “Is that so?”, she asked. Renard ignored what the miss said, sadly. All he cared about are his classmates’ laughter. “Shut up everyone! Ugh!”, he groaned. Mrs. Garcia grew tired of it too. “Stop it, children!”. Everyone stopped, as expected. She went along her merry way onto the next children. It looked weird to everyone, since she was just yelling for silence, but at the same time, she was a kind-hearted teacher who just wants what’s best for her troubled students.

In the second to last row, a boy sat next to a girl who came from the Brooklyn branch. “I’m Riley! Nice to meet you!”, the boy said. He was wearing a sports-shirt with soccer gloves. Mrs. Garcia have a curious look onto him. “I’m, uh, Violetta”, the girl stuttered. Her mouth instantly zipped after saying that, and she covered herself with her soft, pale hand. Mrs. Garcia turned to the other side while raising her eyebrows, knowing how stranger the students might get.

“Roar! I’m Sheldon!”, the short blue boy yelled out. On the other side is a polar opposite of him. A tall, but quiet boy. He wears a helmet that had a signature of someone unknown. “Erm, Spencer, if you will”, he quietly said. It was so quiet that nobody could hear him.

“Wah? I’m Winnie! Hello!”, the innocent girl said. She wore blue overalls and had pigtails. The next girl is somewhat covered in hair. It seems like she didn’t tie up her hair! “Don’t forget about me! I’m Rosetta!”, she said in a pleasing tone. Her voice is smooth and silky. To many, it’s nice to just listen to her words! It matches her personality as well.

Mrs. Garcia led out a sigh as she turned to the other side. “And you’re Connor and Casper, am I right?”, she asked with an odd tone. She already knew how shy and quiet these boys are. It’s possibly because of how the staff members described them to be. The boys

gulped and sweated. “Y-Yes”, Casper stuttered. He was looking around the room, then at Connor’s face. It looked like they were looking out for help! Mrs. Garcia walks out of the corner and faced the whole classroom. It’s a surprise that everyone’s present.

As she was walking, she spouts out, “Well, let’s not mess around!”. She reached the front of the class. Everyone was facing her. “Let’s begin to bond with each other! We are stuck with each other for a year, aren’t we?”, she said. Everyone cheered and said “Absolutely!”. Of course, the front girls disagreed. As so, the day continues as a usual day should.

Chapter 3

Old Friends

It's finally break!

The children got out of their classes just as the bells jingle and clank. Everyone got to the cafeteria and grabbed their food. There were lots of chit-chats going on. It spread all across the room as if it was an infection.

Bruno, however, waited in the corner for his old pals, not being infected by the talking. *"Jeez, when will they come? It's been a while… It's not like their classes came late either"*, he thought. During the wait, he was daydreaming about the endless possibilities of how he'd spend his time with his friends. Bruno daydreamed about going to field trips with them, playing football with them, so and so. He wouldn't even consider he'd make new friends! He was so caught up in the daydream that he didn't know about the harsh reality that would eventually come up to him…

Finally… his old pals came!

"Guys!", Bruno cheered, opening his arms up into the air. On the other hand, his friends had odd faces. They were smiling and seem upset at the same time. The combination may seem impossible, but these pals always break the impossible. "Uhm? What's the matter? You guys look weird today", he asked.

They purely frowned after it being addressed.

"Look, Bruno…", one friend sighed, "we know this is sudden but,".

“We have to… give the group a farewell…”, another continued.

Bruno jumped in shock. He couldn’t believe what he was saying! Was it a dream? Sadly, it wasn’t. It seemed like the daydream might never become reality!

“A f-farewell?! But why!?”, he yelled in denial.

The friends looked around, almost not wanting to look at each other’s faces after they denounce their friendship. “You see. When we’re in class together, none of us are, well… nothing is—“, he got stopped by a yelling friend, “NOTHING IS THE SAME DUDE!”. He continued with, “We tried to talk it out but, nothing worked out!”.

“And things are just… different now…”, another friend continued. “We found our own friends while you were away”.

“Oh, I get it…”, Bruno sighed, finally understanding and eventually accepting the circumstances.

“We’re so sorry”, one friend apologized. “But Bruno, we can all still be friends, right?”, he continued.

“Yup! Tony is definitely right! We can still be friends! We’re just not that close, you know?”, another friend affirmed.

It became silent afterward. Bruno was about to have a glimmer of hope until they waved their goodbyes. It’s true. It’s really, really true. Their 8-year friendship was over. He was left with a broken heart.

It looks like romantic partners don’t like break your hearts, but your best and closest pals can too. Bruno learned that the hard way, it seems.

Tears started pouring out his eyes that he had enough of holding it back. The tears were a waterfall splashing down from Bruno's eyes. He slammed his head on the table. A lake had appeared on it.

A friend of his approaches him, gladly enough.

"Hey Bru— ", he paused as he noticed the tears drooping down upon Bruno.

"Woah! What happened?!", he exclaimed.

He ran up to Bruno for emotional support. "Hello?", the friend asked. His long sleeves held up Bruno away from his folding arms on the table. It and Bruno were covered in tears!

"What is it?", Bruno asked.

"Why did you cry out a river?!", the friend shouted in surprise. He never even saw Bruno in this vulnerable state.

Bruno couldn't process what he just said, as he was drowned by thoughts and memories of his old friends hanging out. He couldn't even focus on the here and now!

"Bruno!", the friend shouted. "Bruno!", he repeated.

Bruno snapped back to reality. He turned his head left and right, then turns to his friend. "What happened? Is it something big…?", the friend inquired softly. He approached Bruno slightly, then sat down. Bruno looked down at the ground, seemingly shy to admit.

His tears returned to him as soon as he inhaled and exhaled.

"Evans… Our friends… they…".

He started to sniffle and snuffle. His blush was as red as the sun. The friend shook his shoulder, "They what? Please tell me!", Evans commanded.

Then Bruno burst out in tears! He was quite literally crying out a waterfall now!

"THEY BROKE UP THE GROUP!",

he yelled as he was trying to soak away his tears, while Evans was in shock.

"No way! You're kidding, right?!", he asked.

Bruno then shook his head in denial. "No! Why would I be lying about this?!", he responded in anger.

"I suppose you're right…", Evan sighed, tilting his head in concern. He started to fear for Bruno's mental health. Concerned, he moved his head close to Bruno and gave him tissues to soak away his tears. Bruno blew his tears into the tissue.

"Hey! Cheer up! You've got me, right?", Evans asked. Bruno looked at Evans just as he sniffles. "I guess you're right, Evans…", Bruno said while sniffling. "Thanks…", he smiled.

Evans made out a wide grin. "What are friends for?", he chuckled. Bruno smiled back. "Come on, let's get some food. I'm starving!", Evans said. Bruno nodded. The two got up and walked away… moving on from their old friends.

Chapter 4

Where's The Teacher?

Back in class, everyone was making a noise. Bruno watches Alex reading his book. He was looking at the book with curious eyes, remembering what's the main plot behind the book, since it's supposedly a part of a novel that he read as a child.

Bruno turned to the chalkboard, wondering when will the teacher arrive. Even though the class isn't being taught, there should still be someone watching over the class, right?

"When will he come?", Bruno tilted his head as he thought.

Meanwhile, the class made up discussions about a new video game, make-up, family, and everything else in between. Sadly, Bruno isn't that talkative of a boy unless he's with people he knows. All of a sudden, a tap on his shoulder came by. He turned back and saw Nadia and Bella, looking excited to talk to him.

"Oh, girls!", he exclaimed,

"Do you know what happened to the teacher?".

It got silent. However, the silence got cut, but not for his question. It was a loud squeal from Nadia, "No, but I do know you!".

It didn't click on Bruno at first, until he notices Nadia's iconic smile.

"Oh! You're Nadia Shannon, right?", Bruno asked.

Nadia nodded excitingly with a large grin.

"Yes! Yes, you're right!", she said with pleasure and thrill. On the other side was Bella. She wasn't too amused by Nadia's thrill, as she's usually like this. She got used to her excitement at this point.

"Well, would you answer my— ".

Bruno got unfortunately cut off by Bella.

"You know, Bruno, Nadia has a major **thing** about you", she hinted.

Bruno tilted his head in confusion.

"What 'thing'? What thing are you talking about?", he was asking.

Nadia instantly struck an infuriated expression at Bella.

"Bella! I **so** will get you!", she yelled. Bella jumped in a scare. She wasn't used to seeing Nadia so furious!

"Woah, woah, Nadia! Easy there! I was just… bluffing!", Bella lied.

Of course, Nadia wasn't taking one bit of that sentence with sincerity. Nadia rolled her eyes.

As if I ***believed*** *her*, she thought.

At the midst of all this was Bruno watching silently, knowing that he was the true cause of all of this conflict. It was truly awkward between all parties, though mostly for Bruno.

The arguing continues.

Bruno got his last straw. All he wanted was to know what happened to the teacher, but then this ordeal occured!

He got out of his chair, behind the girls' shared table and slammed his hands on the table. His face was extremely red, his eyes were pinched into an enraged shape and his brain was tensioned. The entire class started watching. However, all Bruno could see were the two girls and their messy heads.

"SHUSH IT ALREADY, WILL YOU?! I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TEACHER!", he yelled!

Nobody ever saw Bruno in such fury, not even those in his former branch! It looked like he just ate a ghost pepper or something from that sort!

Of course, everybody has gotten silent. The girls were shivering and stunned by Bruno's anger. They knew they went too far as soon as he shouted. His anger was so impactful that someone entered the classroom immediately after.

"Class…?", a voice casted out.

… It was the teacher!

Everyone stood up and wished the teacher "Good morning", including Bruno.

The teacher was fairly messy-looking, but wearing a lab coat. It seems like he always comes into school prepared for any experiment, even if his hair and outfit were a bit fizzled up. Science is dangerous if taken lightly after all.

As soon as the students sat down, he commanded them to stand up again, and so they did. "Students,", he said in a friendly tone, "what happened before I came…?".

Everyone got silent.

The teacher sighed, but not in a giving up way. No, it seems he wants to handle this situation in a lightful and mature manner, as it should be. He puts his hands together and walked to Bruno, the one he suspects to have shouted.

“Young boy, were you the one who caused the conflict?”, the teacher asked. Bruno was shivering in fear. What if he got caught? What would he do? It was only the first day! However, the friendly teacher snapped him back to reality. “Hello?”, he asked again.

“Oh!”, Bruno exclaimed. “Sorry, Mr…”, he stopped for the teacher to answer with “Mr. Adams”.

“Yeah, uhm. I’m sorry. I was only asking my classmates about you… I was just worried. It is my first day, isn’t it?”, Bruno explained.

Mr. Adams’s face lighted up. “Oh, of course! You’re correct! I understand. I’ve done this countless times back in my old school!”, he chuckled. Mr. Adams pats on Bruno’s back with a friendly smile.

“Okay, I understand… hmmm… Your name?”, Mr. Adams asked.

“Bruno. Bruno Ray”, Bruno answered.

“Ah! Bruno! Please don’t repeat this behavior again. I understand if you’ve done this for only today. You seem new too, so it’s much more understandable”, Mr. Adams said. Bruno nodded to Mr. Adams’s command and sentiment about this situation. The man took it lightly and maturely. That’s not something usual for a teacher!

“You know, Mr. Adams, those two girls were also arguing! Of course, I’m not trying to defend Bruno or anything, I’m just saying!”, Maverick said in the background.

Mr. Adams then took his eyes to those two girls. "… Is that so?", Mr. Adams said. *"What a snitch!"*, Bella thought. *"Did he have to say that?! I'm pretty sure he hates us too!"*, Nadia thought.

In reality, Bella and Nadia were sweating in silence.

"Uhm… no…", Nadia stuttered.

Mr. Adams shrugged it off and walked away. The girls sighed in relief, then they gave a death glare at Maverick, who gave a mischievous grin alongside Mandy.

Then Bruno smiled at them while sweating. It sure will be an embarrassment memory for him!

Of course, the class continued as usual. Apparently, the teacher, Mr. Adams, was announcing some important things to note about science for this year.

Chapter 5

Missing

To many students, sparring class is the best class, mostly for boys. A lot of action occurs, which is natural as it *is* **sparring** class! This year, they have two teachers: Mr. Bruce and Mr. Jackie, but some people call them Mr. Lee and Mr. Chan as an actor's reference!

Sparring class was next.

The bell sang a "ding-dong-ding-dong"! Everyone in the class rushed out of the classroom, trying to be the first to reach the sparring hall! Meanwhile, Bruno looked at the other classes shortly through a window in the door.

Everyone finally reached the sparring hall, with everyone panting after rushing there, even if they had lot more time!

Rock music was playing. Equipment was there. The mat was brilliantly put into its place. However, nobody was there! It was only the students and a few janitors.

"What?! First the Science teacher and now THESE GUYS?!", Riley yelled. "I can't believe my parents are paying for this!", Bella complained. She took an equipment and was about to step on it, but Nadia pulls her away and shook her head no to the action. Bella looked annoyed.

"Well, what else can I take my anger on?!", Bella yelled. "Maybe, oh I don't know, calm down like the rest of us?!", Nadia yelled back. Her hands clutched back in anger.

“Wow. They’re more like enemies than friends”, Bruno whispered to Alex. “Hmph. They’re usually like this. They never change”, Alex explained. “Ever since that girl, Nadia, got enrolled, that is”, he continued. The rest of the room were the students searching the room in a frenzy.

“I wonder what happened…”, a boy wondered. Riley, walking in his ripped shorts, was finding a possibility. “Maybe they got back home early?”, he gave as a possible explanation. “Or maybe… THEY GOT EATEN BY A BEAR!”, Bella screamed with a dramatic tone. “Bella!”, everyone yelled in unison. She was obviously embarrassed by this.

“Let’s be rational, everyone!”, Alex insisted.

“Rational? Pfft! We don’t even know what that means!”, Maverick laughed.

“Be reasonable! There’s no time for jokes and laughs!”, hissed Alex.

Maverick’s pupils dilated as Alex glared at him. It seems that Alex is really taking his teachers’ absence personally. It’s possibly because of his own family matter. Sounds started bursting. Chatting between the students seem to have risen. Alex clapped to snatch everyone’s attention to him.

“Everyone! Let’s really think about this, please!”. The murmurs stopped. Alex cleared his throat and turned his head to Connor, who was quiet the entire time.

“Connor, my friend”, Alex addressed. Connor turned to Alex, shivering in fear. “Have you seen Mr. Bruce and Mr. Jackie anywhere?”, Alex inquired.

Connor slighted his head to the ground. Trying to memorize what happened in the morning was a tough task for him. He was hyper-fixated on the present.

Apparently, Connor also knew Mr. Bruce and Jackie well. Every morning, he'd see them pass by him as he walks to class. Strangely, things went different that morning.

"Actually… no. I didn't see them today", he answered with disappointment. Everyone was in awe and panicking. "What?! But how!?", Sheldon exclaimed. "Yeah! You always come first…", Riley sighed. Suddenly, Connor took back his statement and continued it with, "Wait! No! Please forgive me!".

"Uhm… you see, I didn't see them in the morning, but I saw them during break", he said. Everyone got calm after that sentence. Phew! But what happened to them if that's true? Could they be in trouble?

"OK, but tell us now, what did you see them do?", Alex asked.

"Oh. What did they do? Err… They were… They were talking to some strange man…", Connor replied. His mind was scrambled at that point, but he could piece some of the scene together, even if it just happened on the same day. While he was remembering, his classmates were in more awe than they were.

"Who was that man?", Alex inquired.

"That man was… uhm… I actually don't know. But! Uhm. The man… had a robe. His hair was covering one of his eyes. Oh! He also had long finger-tails and lots of bruises around his face", Connor answered. "That is all!", he smiled. His answer satisfied everyone's curiosity.

"Thank you, from all of us!", Alex shook Connor's hand while saying that. Connor had a bright, warm smile, more than he had back in class!

"Uh. And what are we supposed to do with that information, exactly?", Bruno asked. "Ah, that's the gig, Bruno!", Alex exclaimed.

“Max, would you mind telling us who it could be?”, Alex turned to Max. Everyone turned their heads to Max, who was attempting to process the description and remember someone who looked like that.

“Oh, found it! It’s… been… It’s Terrance!”, Max said.

Everyone jumped in horror.

“T-TERRANCE?!”, almost everyone shouted.

However, Bruno was confused. He tilted his head, just like always.

“What’s the matter?”, asked Bruno. Everyone looked more shocked about Bruno’s question than Terrance’s reveal.

“You don’t know who Terrance is? Hmph! Fool!”, Carly insulted.

Bruno closed up his fists, as if he’s ready to punch her. “I’m not a fool! I just didn’t know!”, Bruno yelled back.

Violetta looked concerned. “How do you not know, Bruno?”, she asked.

“Look, my parents didn’t give a rat’s nose about legends and myths and whatever”, Bruno rolled his eyes. It seems he didn’t believe one bit in Terrance, despite the name being a real person’s name.

“Ugh! You should know either way!”, Carly yelled.

“Calm down! Bruno, we shall explain. Yes?”, Alex turned to the others.

However, nobody answered. They were all pale about Bruno.

“Looks like **I** have to explain…”, Alex sighed.

He turned to Bruno. Unlike the other times he talked, Alex had a straight face, it goes the same for everyone too. It looked off to Bruno, even if they only met them for a day.

“Basically, Terrance is a ruthless man who manipulates anyone he meets in his way. It’s either for fun, or for his bidding”, Alex explained.

Suddenly, everyone else added in their two-cents on explaining to Bruno.

“Terrance is cold. He’s a sociopath!”, Bella said.

“Some even say that he has no loved ones because of his behavior and attitude”, Spencer said.

“Back then, he terrorized the school. It was a harsh time back then. I always had to hide with my friends and classmates in fear of being attacked. The teachers always had to protect us… He stopped when I got to 3rd grade, however”, Craig sadly told.

“After 3rd grade, he quit his habits after the police confronted him over a shooting. Nobody knew of his whereabouts after his disappearance. It’s said that he’s still out there… somewhere…”, Roselynn said.

“And here we are now!”, Riley said.

“Actually, none of us have a clue how he even came,”, Mandy said. “And manipulated the sparring teachers”, Maverick continued.

Bruno understood. He can’t take this lightly anymore. Perhaps he should take this into his own hands, even if it isn’t safe. As a result, he took his red sneakers out of the door, but not before Nadia crying for him.

“Bruno!”, she yearned, “don’t go yet!”.

“Nadia…”, he sighed.

“Dude, what are you doing?”, Sheldon asked. Bruno turned to everyone and shrugged, “I’m going to find our teachers, that’s all”.

“But it’s not safe out there, i-isn’t it?!”, Winnie warned.

“Meh! Yeah! A skittish kid like you should at least go with us!”, Renard said.

“No way! I’m not going with you hooligans!”, Bruno declined while walking away.

“HOOLIGANS?!”, Sarah yelled.

Sarah was about to pick a fight with him; however, it was too late, Bruno left.

“BRUNO! NO!”, Nadia cried. Sarah facepalmed, though. Everyone else looked at each other in concern, with the exception of the emotional Nadia, the unstable Sarah and the apathetic Carly.

“Ugh, and he had the **audacity** to call us hooligans”, Carly curled her hair.

“*Seriously*?! You care more about that than his *health*?!”, Riley angrily said. Everyone was glaring at her.

“And? What’s the problem with that? Really, **I** should be the one going”, Carly said with high-esteem.

“You can’t just say that! We’re plotting something here and you just—“, Sheldon was stopped by Carly putting her finger into his mouth.

“Just stick to that plot if that’s the case. I’m out of here! What do you say, Sarah?”, Carly asked. However, Sarah was quite literally paralyzed in anger. “Sarah…?”, Carly repeated. “Why does this always happen to me?”, she groaned. Everyone else rolled their eyes in un-amusement over her behavior.

Chapter 6

Lost and Found

Lurking in the school is a ruthless man named Terrance. Apparently, Bruno began searching for him. He was walking along the empty school halls. All he heard were distant talking from the teachers in the classrooms and the students laughing. He got fairly jealous as he's stuck in the position of this. He smelled the pungent aroma of the paintings, and only saw endless hallways. It felt like an infinity school!

Unexpectedly, the sight of the halls was retconned after the light shuts!

"What the?!", Bruno exclaimed. He got prepared for a fight that he's sure will happened.

"Who are you?! Argh! Whoever you are, leave the school alone!", Bruno yelled. Silence followed. Bruno was concerned for what was about to come, for he sensed the succumb enemy. The lights turned on.

In a moment of a scare, he saw a silhouette of a tall, big-boned man. He had a small head, but an enormous torso. Bruno was in for a scare.

Sounds fluttered across the air. "Hello, little one", the voice creaked. Bruno's face had gone utterly pale once he heard footsteps approaching his place. "Hi?", Bruno greeted with uncertainty. The silhouette disappeared as soon as the man approached Bruno.

The man spooked Bruno. It was revealed that he had long, pure-black hair. "Oh. I thought you were a monster!", Bruno sighed in

relief. The man laughed. What a good chuckle he had. “You believe in monsters? Silly me! I thought you were a worthy boy of me”, the man said.

Worthy boy? Bruno pondered over that statement.

“Ah, I remember now! One of your teachers won’t stop on gushing about you! Hah. How sweet. It’s sad that it’s the teacher I happen to kidnap”, the man said.

What a shocker! The man was Terrance all this time!

“Wait… aren’t you—“, Bruno got cut off by the man. “Shhh. Keep this a secret”, the man hushed. Bruno’s eyes widened. What was going on? Why is this man suddenly so odd? “What?”, Bruno asked. His voice crackled as the man laughed an ominous laugh.

Bam!

The lights flickered into darkness. There was a subtle scream and shout, sounding like Bruno’s cries.

Meanwhile, some other students arrived into the hallway. It was Sheldon, Connor, Nadia and Max. They were hopping along the pitch-black hallway. The laughs from the classroom burst out. However, unlike before, the laughs were illusions created from some unknown nature. It could possibly be black magic.

Footsteps were passing by the floor.

Tip-toe-tip-toe-tip-toe.

“Max,”, Sheldon said. “Do you sense anything nearby?”.

Max scanned around the area. **Zing**! He sensed something!

“Yes! Yes, I do!”, Max exclaimed.

The children's faces lighten up. "What is it?", Sheldon asked. Max looked and looked around, then spotted a boy. "A boy! A boy!", Max yelled. Sheldon took the lead. However, he couldn't see through the utter darkness. "Err…", he sweated. "Max, how about you look for him? Everything's too dark for me to see!", Sheldon said.

Max agreed. He… floated?

"Woah! Max, you can float?!", Nadia exclaimed.

"I can do anything, my dear classmate", Max smiled. Nadia was in disbelief. Her face even says so.

Suddenly, the light turns on. It revealed an injured Bruno.

"Bruno!", the children shouted in unison. They ran up to him in despair. Nadia was shaking him as if he was a dead body.

"Bruno, please wake up!", Nadia cried. Bruno opened his eyes miraculously. He wasn't dead after all! "Oh, Bruno!", Sheldon exclaimed. "You're okay!", Nadia added.

Bruno was about to get up, but can't. He was weakened by Terrance's attack. His body was wounded in red scratches, and he had messy hair.

"Guys… careful…", Bruno warned the others.

"Why?", Connor asked.

"Terrance… Terrance was there", Bruno coughed.

"Terrance?!", Sheldon yelled.

Bruno was about to talk, but fainted. Nadia grasped her mouth while the boys wonder what did Bruno mean by Terrance's true return.

Suddenly, Terrance arrived!

“Hello, children!”, Terrance maliciously grinned. The children backed off. The horror got to them.

“Terrance! There you are!”, Sheldon said as he gets ready to battle.

Terrance, however, wasn’t intimidated by the children, not one bit! As a matter of fact, he seems relaxed more than anything. The children were the opposite. They were ready for the battle that comes.

“We… We can beat you!”, Connor stuttered. He was truly determined to win the battle! Terrance laughed, though. This seemed ridiculous to him! “And how are you going to beat me, huh? Are you going to use your magic of friendship?”, Terrance laughed. The children had furious faces.

Terrance was about to use his claw weapon until…

One man punched him!

“ARGH!”, he cried. He fell down straight on his face! Who punched him? It was… Mr. Bruce and Jackie?!

“That was that”, Mr. Jackie sighed.

The children were shocked. Mr. Bruce and Jackie are alive and well! It looks like they’ve only been manipulated, and nothing else. The children’s faces light up once they see them. However, the men were sweating and as heated as the burning sun. It was obvious that they were trying to fight back. Mr. Jackie even had some bruises to accompany his tiredness!

“Mr. Bruce and Jackie!”, the children cheered. They walked up to them. “Where were you?”, Sheldon inquired. Bruce and Jackie sighed. Their hands trying to sweep away their sweat and pain.

“That man told us to get to the storage room. Once we reached that place, however, we got stuck“, Mr. Jackie explained. “Actually, I think we got locked up by the man”, Mr. Bruce added with some thought.

“I wonder what Terrance wants from you…”, Sheldon questioned. Mr. Jackie shrugs it off, while Mr. Bruce was ready to start the class… although it was about to be over!

“Come on, let’s begin class”, Mr. Bruce said. “But there’s only 5 minutes left. We wasted our time looking for you”, Max stated. Mr. Bruce remembered the schedule. Sadly, they didn’t have sparring class. Of course, Bruno got to the nurse’s office through the help of his classmates.

Chapter 7

Nurse's Office

At school, whenever a student gets into an injury, they get sent to the nurse's office for treatment. There are 2 nurses: Nurse Chanu and Nurse Laurie. The gals wear typical nurse outfits, a white coat and sometimes wear a mask. What's odd is that, they get visits from students frequently, and their causes of injury are either unknown or are from things you don't see every day. It seems that whatever lurks in this school isn't natural. Supernatural, to say it right.

Just like any child, Bruno got sent to the nurse's officer after the injury he suffered through. It was caused by a mysterious man named Terrance, who was just a victim of rumors before entering the school countless years ago.

A white, bright light flickered through Bruno's fair-sized eyes. He squinted through the shines to see two middle-aged ladies in white coats. They were the nurses!

"Hello?", one asked. It was in a blurry voice, to Bruno's perspective.

"Bruno Ray? Please respond", another asked.

Finally! What she said was clear!

Bruno got up, his hands on his belly. "What happened?", he asked. His shirt was messed up from an unknown cause, and his hair was a fuzzy mess.

“A man slashed you, from what I heard”, Nurse Chanu said. She was a bit chubbier and shorter than Nurse Laurie. Laurie has the opposite body structure as Chanu. Tall and slim.

“Slashed me? It must be Terrance!”, Bruno exclaimed.

The ladies gasped at his name. Terrance was a certain cause of a boom of visitors to their office. Will that happen again?

“Terrance?!”, Nurse Laurie yelled. “Don’t tell me Terrance is back!”, Nurse Chanu cried. Bruno was extremely puzzled by the nurse’s reaction. It seemed like they were overreacting.

“I think he is. I saw him back in sparring class”, Bruno said. “What’s the matter with Terrance anyways? I know he’s dangerous, but I didn’t know you know him so well”.

“Of course we know him well”, Nurse Chanu said.

“We had some history with him. Between us and the students, actually”, Nurse Laurie added.

“Really? Tell me!”, Bruno commanded.

The nurses giggled at Bruno’s enthusiasm.

“You see, Bruno. Every time Terrance breaks into the school, there’d be a hundred or so students coming into the office”, Nurse Laurie explained.

“Oh boy! There were so many students that we had to call for backup! We got paid extra money for this, as you might think”, Nurse Chanu said.

“At first, we thought these were just children who were making up silly stories about a man, just a rumor! But then… we saw **him**”, Nurse Laurie said.

“He was as rotten as sin. He had skin as bleak as bleach. He was trying to lead us to some shed across the nearby neighborhood. We didn’t believe him one bit. We’re not idiots after all!”, Nurse Chanu said.

“At that moment, we decided to warn every student who comes to the office to watch out for a man who looks like Terrance. We stopped the warnings after his disappearance”, Nurse Laurie said.

“Hah! Remember the day we heard of his disappearance?”, Nurse Chanu laughed. Laurie’s memories flashed back to her! She started laughing along with Chanu. “Well, it seems like that happiness didn’t last long”, Laurie said. Chanu realized the reality and sighed. Terrance really **was** back.

Meanwhile, Bruno was brought to be amused by that story about Terrance. He couldn’t even see the nurse’s perspective of Terrance’s attacks without the told stories.

“So, how did it feel like? Encountering Terrance?”, Chanu asked. It’s as if she forgot everything that she just said. Apparently, it was a question she frequently asked past victims of Terrance. “Oh. It felt… scary, honestly”, Bruno replied. Chanu was satisfied with that answer, so was Laurie.

“Thank you, Bruno”, Chanu said. Laurie took a glance at her crackled-up watch, that could still work, somehow. It was 9 past 12. She looked back at Bruno and smiled. “It looks like you’ve been healed, which means… you can come back to class! You’re already 7 minutes late”, Laurie said. Bruno nodded with a confident look. His arms raised to an odd position, and turned back to the exit door.

“Thanks, nurses!”, Bruno said with glee.

He walked out of the door, ready to face the classroom, until…

BAM!

The door opened right into Bruno's face!

"Bruno!", a heavy voice came out.

A girl with pigtails and overalls came about. It was Winnie!

"Bruno, there you are!", Winnie yelled. She saw Bruno's maddened state. "Oh, Bruno! Uhm… Are you… ok?", she asked, stuttering. "I am not. Thanks for asking", Bruno spitted out at some wood while saying that. Bruno asked about what's going on at class.

"There's some group activity going on, so I **had** to come and get you, whether you're fine or not", explained Winnie.

Bruno led out a hard sigh. "I'll come. Don't worry", Bruno said forcefully. *Do I even have a choice?* He asked in his mind.

The two walked out of the room while the nurses wave goodbye.

Chapter 8

Musical Friends

As mentioned before, Craig had old classmates. However, what you might not know (and his current classmates don't know either) is that, they're closer than anyone might think. Him and his classmates (even his old teachers!) were close.

While they might be normal teachers and students, now they're held in higher regard. One of him goes by the name of Louie. He and Craig are not that close (though Craig wasn't close to any of them, since he is introverted), they still are in good terms. His teacher, Quaver, however, isn't an English teacher anymore. He's now the music teacher. It's unknown what happened to his classmates, but it is said that they're important people now. Especially to the classroom.

This fact is off-putting to Craig. While all of his classmates and teachers go on to do better, he's still a simple old student!

In present day, everything is going as usual (as usual as it could be).

The students sat in class. Some were talking and eating, while others sit in silence, waiting for the long-awaited teacher… or **teachers** in this case. Yes, two teachers are coming!

Bruno was occupied, talking to Alex.

"Woah, what are you reading?", Bruno asked. Alex was reading a book that's a part of a long-running novel. Even if the novel was famous, Alex still kept his reading of it a secret. This may be because of the horrid reputation the fans of the novel had.

“It’s nothing much”, he answered.

“Oh please, Alex! I know we just met but-“, Bruno’s sentence got cut off.

“No, no, no, and no”, Alex declined.

Bruno made out his “baby-doll eyes”. “Pleaseeee?”, Bruno pleaded.

Alex sighed. He was convinced.

“Fine”, he said. “It’s a part of the Airborne Adventures novel”.

“Ah! Amazing! My cousin reads it a lot. He’s really annoying about the book, though. What happens there?”, Bruno said.

“It’s a long story…”, Alex said with a serious tone. He really wants to keep the book a secret from everyone.

“Ok, I get it! You don’t wanna-“. Yet again! Bruno got cut off!

“Hello, hello, everyone!”, someone said with a sweet voice.

It seems to be the music teacher.

And… a teenager is with him? He seems to be the same age as the students.

“Good morning”, the students greeted.

“DON’T FORGET ABOUT ME!”, the boy yelled.

Geez! That boy sure is loud! His voice said it.

However, that attribute of the boy allowed Craig to recognize him.

“Louie?”, Craig asked, with his usual craggy voice.

“Ah, Craig, my man!”, the boy joyfully said.

The teacher realized Craig’s presence and turned to him.

“Oh my! Craig! It’s been so long!”, the teacher said.

Everyone was absolutely puzzled. How did they know each other? Well, everyone was puzzled until they found out about the three’s history.

“Oh yeah. Mr. Quaver was my old homeroom teacher, just like how Mrs. Garcia is to us”, Craig explained.

Everyone sighed out an “oh!”.

“So, how were stuff before?”, Bruno asked. Craig smiled, for once! “It’s nice you asked. Er. Mr. Quaver, Louie, could you…?”, Craig asked. The two got the cue.

“Yes! Students. I and Louie once had some history with your fellow classmate, Craig! Most of you might not know, since a lot of you came from the Brooklyn branch”, Quaver explained.

“And most importantly: I am your music teacher. This boy here is my assistant, Louie. He was once a student, but he excelled in music so well, that he started working as a teacher’s assistant. Excellent, isn’t it?”, Quaver continued.

The students nodded, though they couldn’t believe it, for Louie’s volume made it seem unbelievable. Why would a boy so loud be so good after all?

“Meh! I remember you guys now!”, a boy said. It was Renard.

“Oh dear! Renard! A pleasure to meet you again! I remember you so fondly!”, Quaver said with a melody.

Renard smiled back at Quaver’ glad smile.

Then Bruno insulted Louie, saying that he had a huge mouth that could rival an elephant’s ear. Of course, Louie exploded in rage! He yelled out a bunch of unsanitary words. The students were laughing

while this was occurring. Quaver couldn't tolerate this "non-sense", so he told everyone to shut it up and focus on the main "thing".

"What **thing** are you talking about?", asked Riley. Quaver led out a large grin. "Studying", he replied. The students sighed at that.

Quaver took a walk around the classroom, observing the behavior and personality of his students. He spotted Maverick and Mandy talking, and seems like it was about the spa. "Ahem?", Quaver coughed out, satirically. The two froze silently. He then walked pass by the quiet kids. They weren't too amusing, fortunately.

He then reached to Riley and Violetta. The latter was writing an entire book! Riley was also reading it. Rather than getting mad, Quaver was surprised. How could such a young child write this well? He isn't even the English teacher, yet he's impressed! Louie also spotted her and gasped in shock. He was somewhat jealous! Violetta noticed the crowd. "Get away", she said as she closed the book.

Louie and Quaver stared at each other, then walked away. While walking, Craig called out their names. They turned their heads to him. "What is it?", Louie asked. Approaching him, Craig asked them a little question. "Heh. What's up with everyone else?".

Louie lighted up.

"Oh yeah! They went off to do BIGGER and BETTER things!", Louie yelled. Craig's smile instantly went upside down. His eyebrows patched down as well. He led out an oh. He was in disbelief. He really **was** the only one left in school! As a student, of course.

Meanwhile, Quaver was looking at Alex, who was creating origami that resemble cake. Bruno was watching in amusement, as any curious child should. It was only the first day and all of this was

happening! Where did they even get these things and skills to do what they do?

Then Carly tapped on Quaver' shoulder.

"Hm?", Quaver grunted. He looked at Carly. "Who are you supposed to be?", Quaver asked. Carly groaned in anger. "You don't know **me**?! I'm one of Mrs. Garcia's kids!", she yelled. Quaver gave a confused look, unfortunate to her. He didn't know Mrs. Garcia and her husband even had a child, let alone two! "Gee. I've HEARD that Mrs. Garcia and Mr. Isaac got married, but NOT HAVING CHILDREN!", Louie shouted. Carly got upset, so she stormed off to her seat. Sarah was so close to laughing, but she held it off to not break her and Carly's friendship.

"What is up with her?", Quaver whispered to Alex. Alex shrugged. "She's the spoiled daughter of Mrs. Garcia, that's all".

Quaver raised his eyebrows at Carly. She got shocked, as if she touched electricity. That made her run back to her seat, grunting. Quaver turned to all the students and clapped his hands in two.

"Well! Let's begin the introduction—shall we?", he said.

The students nodded their heads and say that they're ready.

Chapter 9

Back Home

As the rest of the day passed by, the school day ends.

At the end of every school day, the students leave out into the hall. This process is divided from class to class. Since Class 2 is the second class, they went in that order. Class 1 was first.

The reason for the division is to keep everything in proper order. It is proposed to the school officials that the process should change from class to class to grade to grade, as it is less time-consuming. It is not confirmed if this'll happen, sadly.

"Bye, teacher!", voices sprouted out to Mrs. Garcia.

Her students were leaving the class, as they should be. The line made was an absolute mess, as expected from a bunch of (mostly) immature 8th graders.

Scrambles of noises and voices came about from the walking line. They were marching out of the door like an army of soldiers marching out of a military base.

One student is left behind: Carly. This is because both of her parents work at the school, unlike the other students, even those with a parent working at the school.

Carly laughed like a hyena at the sight of the marching students.

"Oh mom! Why do I have to be stuck with these… these… hooligans?! Hahahaha!", Carly laughed. Mrs. Garcia's head started to blow.

“Please, abide by your manners!”, she yelled. Carly’s laughing froze, so did her body. Not because of her mother, but because of her entering father. Yes, he came. After a hard day of work. Even with his white jumpsuit in a dark-gray jacket that’s been coated in water.

“Ah, honey! How was the first day?”, Mrs. Garcia asked.

Jeffery slighted a smile at his wife.

“Terrible, as usual”, he smiled.

“As I expected!”, Mrs. Garcia laughed.

“Where’s Randall?”, Carly asked. The parents looked at her.

“He’s still at the preschool, probably waiting for us”, Jeffery answered.

“Alrighty!”, Carly exclaimed.

The students finally reached the hall, which was fairly far from the classroom. The hall was filled with adults, waiting for their children to arrive, which they eventually did.

The students ran to their parents (or parent) with their arms raised. It’s as if they were running through a meadow of dandelions with the wind breezing through the fresh air. It’s surprising that none even slipped and tripped. They’ve ran that fast. Perhaps getting out of school was such a fantastic idea for the students.

However, Spencer was the black sheep. He was left alone in the shadows. Bruno stopped, since he couldn’t see nor find his father, who’s supposed to be picking up him.

“Spencer?”, Bruno asked.

He took some steps to reach Spencer, whose emotional health was unchanged, surprisingly. *Where were his parents?* Bruno thought.

Spencer took an amusing look at Bruno, then tried to take his distance away from Bruno, but not before being stopped by Bruno's question. "Do I need to say it? I only know you for a day", Spencer folded his arms.

"I know but—", Bruno was stopped. "My father's here", Spencer said. Bruno bit his mouth as soon as Spencer said that. Spencer walked to his father and gave him a hug, talking about his day as they're walking out of the school.

Wait… his father's wearing the teacher's badge… is he a teacher? Bruno thought to himself. His mind was stopped by a tip and a tap behind his shoulder, though. It was from a girl. It was… Winnie!

"Yohoo!", she called out. Bruno turned his back to see the girl with pigtails and overalls. "Oh, hey Winnie. That's your name, right?", Bruno asked. "Yep!", she answered with an assuring voice, "and you're Bruno! The sorta newbie here". Bruno nodded to that. What's strange is that: Winnie seems… familiar to him. From the bucked teeth, to the tiny dimples, to even the "iconic" overalls.

"Well, you're not a newbie to me!", she sung. It snapped to him.

"Aren't you…". Bruno's face turned gray.

"Yep! Your neighbor!", Winnie smiled.

Bruno's expression turned to shock. "What are the chances of that?!", Bruno exclaimed.

Winnie shrugged. She didn't even bother to say a word. Her father arrived to the scene. He was actually there the entire time.

“Hello! How are things?”, a man said. He seemed to be middle-aged. He had fairly gray-brown hair, and a greasy sweater that looks like it came from a thrift shop.

“Good, papa! Let’s go before dinner gets hot!”, Winnie said. However, the man drifted his view to Bruno.

“So your Bruno, right?”, the man asked. Bruno gulped. “Uh, yes. Yes, I am”, he answered. His sweat droops down upon him.

“Lucky!”, he sung. Bruno’s father came. He was racing to his son just to see Winnie and her father. “Bruno, I’m—“. Before he could even talk, Mr. Ray saw Winnie’s father and jumped. “Mr. Williams?!”, Mr. Ray exclaimed. “Why hello, Ryan!”, Mr. Willaims waved his hand. Mr. Ray was in shock, as anyone who saw their neighbor at school should be.

“Erm… let’s have a talk tonight, ok?”, Mr. Ray proposed.

Mr. Willaims nodded. The Rays walked back home in peace. They didn’t even say goodbye to Winnie and her father. That didn’t matter anyways.

The first day was school was the craziest day of school…

And it was only the first!